

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-30 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over various combinations of cited art, all of which include U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0036621 to Liu, et al. ("Liu"). Applicant traverses these rejections.

Claim 1 is amended to recite that the source loop solenoid has an axis substantially perpendicular to the planar surface of the base unit. Support for this limitation can be found throughout the specification, e.g., Fig. 3. The Examiner notes that Liu teaches a solenoid (item 34 in Fig. 1). However, Liu's solenoid has an axis that runs circumferentially around the periphery of a pad, and thus the axis is parallel to the planar surface of the pad, rather than perpendicular as recited in claim 1. Therefore, Liu cannot serve as the basis for an obviousness rejection of claim 1.

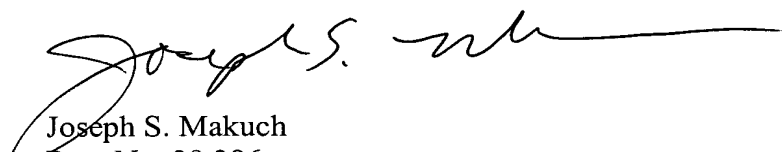
Claims 14, 23 and 27 are also amended to recite similar limitations relating to an axis arranged perpendicular to the planar surface. Therefore, Liu cannot serve as the basis for an obviousness rejection of claims 14, 23 and 27. Claims 2-13, 15-22, 24-26 and 28-30 recite additional features that are neither disclosed nor suggested by the combinations of references cited by the Examiner.

Applicant requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and remarks. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (503) 222-3613 if it appears that an interview would be helpful in advancing the case.

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Respectfully submitted,

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